

APRIL, 1944

The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER



Official Magazine
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS... CHAUFFEURS
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS
OF AMERICA

Tobin Indorses Fourth Term!

—See inside front cover

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Tobin Favors Fourth Term!

(Here is the text of the telegram sent Senator Barkley of Kentucky by President Tobin following Barkley's speech in the Senate which resulted in the passage of the infamous tax bill over the President's veto.)

I AM DISTURBED over what seems to be a determination on the part of liberal Democratic leaders to destroy the unity existing amongst those leaders during the past 11 years.

I feel that all men holding responsible positions in the government should be entitled to exercise their opinions as they see the light.

However, disunity and discord amongst the leaders of the Democratic party at this particular time will, in my personal judgment, as a representative of labor, bring about the defeat of the liberal minded men in the next election.

At this time, in the middle of a war, the masses of the people still believe that President Roosevelt is doing all that is humanly possible to bring about a successful ending of the war.

The progress of this great world struggle under his guidance has been encouraging.

Yet the clouds are still heavy that overhang the world. At a time when it appears that hundreds of thousands of young men may be called on to offer up their lives for the continued freedom of humanity, I believe that personal feelings and jealousies, if they exist between the President and those who have been with him as leaders in the liberal party that he represents, should be eliminated and that those leaders should immediately make any sacrifice necessary in order to bring about greater unity and better understanding from this time on.

It is also my opinion, after traveling throughout the nation and dealing with the masses of the workers, organized and unorganized, that it would be the suicide of our war effort to displace the present head of our government and commander in chief of our armed forces.

It is my further opinion, as one who has given his every effort during the past three elections to the liberal Democratic party, that no other Democrat can be elected in November except the present head of the nation, President Roosevelt. Even with President Roosevelt leading the Democratic ticket, it will be difficult for many of those running on the same ticket to be re-elected.

I, too, am dissatisfied at the manner in which the labor affairs of the nation have been handled. Nevertheless we are endeavoring to keep men working. And in these irritating days, with the cost of living rising, it is no small task to explain to the masses of trade unionists why congress found it necessary to enact legislation demanding the right of government officials, for the first time in history, to examine into every private financial affair of labor unions.

The workers resent what they consider an unjust law tacked onto the tax bill. But above and beyond all, there is the necessity of working together as one great body of progressive, freedom-loving Americans, to the end that we may successfully carry on the war and speedily bring this conflict to an end.

I therefore implore you, in the interests of the nation and the liberty-loving people of the world, to see to it that from now on closer counsel and conference shall prevail.



Our Candidate!

The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER



Official Magazine

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
CHAUFFEURS . . . WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS

Vol. XLI

APRIL, 1944

Number 5

Watch Out for Enemy Appeasers!

"Stinking, Sentimental Flapdoodle" Says Briton

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

Office of Publication

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I WILL never forget my last luncheon,
about one year ago last September, with
Ben Tillett in the Cumberland Hotel, oppo-
site Hyde Park, London.

You do not, perhaps, know who Ben Til-
lett was. To my mind he was one of the most
brilliant and likable labor leaders in Eng-
land. He was the head of what we would call
the dockers' or longshoremen's union. They
afterwards became part of the General
Transport Workers.

He had a great deal to do with bringing
young men like Ernest Bevin, the present
Minister of Labor, into the labor movement
and advising them, training them, and en-
couraging them. Of course Ben was also
very human and had, like all great men,
weaknesses, but in his prime as a labor
leader, an orator and a member of Parlia-
ment, representing the workers of London
in the House of Commons, he did a real
man's work.

He lived to be quite old and feeble and
suffered a great deal, and when he died he
had nothing. His union, however, had paid
him a pension, on which, by careful manag-
ing, he could live very moderately.

It was a treat to sit around the table
with him and hear him recite his experiences
in the early days of the movement, or his

conversations with prominent men in public life, including the now Duke of Windsor, who was quite friendly with Ben when the duke was Prince of Wales.

In my last conversation with him he seemed to be in good spirits until someone in the party would bring up something indicating sympathy for Germany. Remember at that particular time, September, 1942, England had been in the war almost three years, and all around the Cumberland Hotel where we were sitting was wreckage from the bombs of Hitler.

Tillett would almost choke with contempt when he would read about a group that held a meeting in which expressions were made advising that we should not destroy the enemy at the ending of the war, etc.

He used quaint language and although being possessed of a strong cockney accent, his words, his sentences, his expressions were beautiful in composition and enlightening and elevating in the message they conveyed.

He sometimes took occasion to use some of his waterfront language and cockney expressions.

At this particular time there was a meeting held in London by men who believed somewhat in the doctrines of Oswald Mosely, the British Fascist, and they said that the German people should not be blamed for what was being done by Hitler, etc.

Tillett had just come out of the hospital and turning to me he said, "Dan, I believe I will go back to the hospital where I can't read or hear anything about this stinking, sentimental flapdoodle." I shall never forget his words. They were so unique, so full of meaning, and uttered in such a forceful manner by old Ben Tillett.

Why am I now reminded of those words? Simply because we have so many — and we will have more — of those (I will not use the first of the three words used by Tillett) "sentimental flapdoodleists." Everywhere you go now you seem to hear people who believe they are 100 per cent patriotic and some of them are pleading for consideration, and they often use the word "justice" for the oppressors.

Recently there was a gathering in Washington — not of the so-called common people, the middle class or working people — but a gathering of those who consider themselves the elite, sometimes referred to as the "crest of society," and one of them went so far as to say that even the Japanese people could not be condemned because of their ignorance and their innocent idolatry of their rulers. Watch out for this class in your neighborhood or in your gatherings, and remember the words of Ben Tillett when he said, "The curse of England has been our _____." Well, you know what he said.

Soldiers Lost Arms, Legs and Votes

THE most damning indictment of congressional treachery in its handling of soldier vote legislation came last month from, believe it or not—H. V. Kaltenborn.

Kaltenborn told of visiting the amputation ward of a large military hospital, filled with maimed veterans of the Italian campaign.

To sound out their political sentiments, he asked:

"How many of you men have made up your minds to vote for Willkie?" Not a man stirred or spoke.

"How many have made up their minds to vote for Dewey," Kaltenborn then asked. The same stony silence.

"How many have decided to vote for President Roosevelt," the radio commentator then inquired.

And the air was filled with hands and the stumps of arms.

Kaltenborn then pointed out that by its political maneuvering, Congress has denied most of these men a vote. They have lost their arms and legs and now—thanks to Congress—they have lost their votes.

Unions Must Gird for Battle

— Survival at Stake in November, Flynn Warns

BY THOMAS E. FLYNN

Executive Assistant to the General President

A MEETING of paramount importance for the Teamsters of the ten southern states was held in Memphis on March 21 and 22. It was the second session of the Southern Conference of Teamsters, organized in New Orleans last November by merging the Southeast and Southwest Conferences.

The meeting in Memphis laid plans for the proper financing of the conference to carry out the program it has started. Temporary financing arrangements were made in New Orleans.

A program as important as that of the Southern Conference cannot be permitted to lag for lack of money.

It is my belief that the unions in the Southern Conference will gladly contribute whatever is necessary to protect the interests of their members. Otherwise, they will have failed in their fundamental duty.

During my last visit in New Orleans I warned the delegates of some of the dangers I saw ahead.

I said that legislation would be enacted by congress limiting the scope of union activities after the war by compelling arbitration before any strike could be called.

I said further that the postwar era would usher in a tremendous campaign by industry to disorganize labor and force wages down.

The intervening months have shown both these trends more clearly than they were last November. If anything, I was unduly optimistic at that time.

Now I am convinced that we are in for the fight of our lives and that there is no time to lose in preparing ourselves for it.

In the past few weeks we have seen Congress, in a fit of hysterical impulse, pass a

tax bill over the veto of President Roosevelt. At least this measure was called a tax bill, although it was so pitifully inadequate that it seems clear it was part of a conspiracy to create a financial emergency by which to justify a sales tax.

This measure was in no sense a wartime revenue bill, as it was supposed to be. In reality, it offered tax relief to the big timber companies and other corporate interests. It also contained provisions which opened the funds of labor unions to federal inspection.

It provided privileges for industry and penalties for labor.

President Roosevelt properly described this measure as one for the benefit of the greedy, not for the needy. For his veto, we should be grateful. For the enactment of this measure over his veto, we should be concerned.

It shows that the influences which intend to destroy organized labor after the war are already in control of Congress.

They have a running start on us. If this same Congress, or one like it, is re-elected next November we will be in a serious situation. If, at the same time, the reactionary influences should also elect a President, our position will be fatal.

President Tobin, in a telegram to Senator Barkley of Kentucky, protesting his attack on the President, said that the defeat of President Roosevelt for a fourth term would be the suicide of our war effort.

I will go one step further. I say that if he is defeated it will mean the suicide of our labor organizations.

I mention these things because it is necessary that labor organizations keep abreast of developments in the political field. There never was a time when the lives of men were

so affected by every development in political circles as they are today.

The future of our unions and the lives of more than 125,000 of our members hinge on political developments. Therefore, one of our primary duties today is to keep fully informed of what our congressmen and senators are doing.

We must defeat those who would turn back the clock to the "good old days" of unrestricted exploitation of the workers, which the reactionaries now label as "free enterprise."

It is our intention at International headquarters to keep you fully informed of developments in the political field. In the March issue of our magazine we printed the roll call of the Senate on subsidies and the roll call of the House on soldier voting.

In our April issue we are printing the names of the 14 Senators and 95 Congressmen who stood with the President on his veto of the deceitful tax bill.

We hope you will keep those roll calls for reference so that you will know what your elected representatives *have done*, when

they come home to tell you what they *will do*.

The work of educating our individual members must be carried on intensively through such organizations as the Southern Conference. Their aim is primarily to educate in economic matters. At this particular time, however, every economic matter is a political question.

Unless we have men in public office who are sympathetic to working men, we can make no progress. Indeed, we cannot even hold what we have.

The fight for low wages and long hours after the war has already started in the Congress of the United States. We lost the first two rounds on the Connally bill and the tax bill. The President vetoed them both but both times the reactionaries cracked the whip and Congress passed them over the veto.

The next round is coming up in the national campaign which is about to start. If we lose that round, we will have lost the fight.

Moral Rearmament? For Whom? Against What?

THE mail of labor editors for some time been filled with periodic bursts of flattery sunshine emanating from an organization called Moral Rearmament.

A casual reading of the material reveals only a passion for brotherly love. On the surface, it is like the meringue on a piece of lemon pie—pleasant but not very nourishing.

We might be inclined to take Moral Rearmament at its face value if it were not for our memory.

Isn't this the outfit which sent out troupes of actors telling us all "You Can Defend America"? It is.

And isn't this the same outfit whose bright young men tried to evade the draft when it

came their turn to defend America? It is.

Isn't this the movement headed by Dr. Frank Buchman who once said and never repudiated—"Thank heaven for a man like Adolph Hitler"? It is.

Isn't this the organization that was supported by Prince Konoye and Baron Mitsui of Japan to lull us into a state of joyous hypnosis before they socked us on the button at Pearl Harbor? It is.

Why should an organization like this suddenly try to lead labor? Where are they trying to lead it? You tell us.

So far as we are concerned, we'll take our lemon pie straight—without the meringue camouflage. Then we can see what we're getting.

Farm Bloc organizations which have built up membership during years when the government gave benefit payments to farmers, now oppose subsidies to farmers.—*Minnesota Teamster.*

Religion May Return to Russia

War Stamps Stalin as World Leader

SUPPRESSION of religion by the Communist government of Russia will be strongly modified or liberalized, if not entirely abolished after the war, according to all indications.

Religion may be allowed to come back and be practiced under certain restrictions which will not allow the Greek Catholic Church — which was the dominant church in Russia during the regime of the Czars — to again get into the hands of undesirable ecclesiastical politicians, many of whom were rubber stamps for the oppressors of the common people.

That is our analysis of the situation after talking with many men in England and in our own country who should know something about what might happen in Russia at the ending of this war.

One thing is certain and that is that the Russian government will fully understand that Russia itself and its people would be destroyed by the monsters of aggression represented by Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini, were it not for the United States and England.

It is true that in helping Russia, England helped herself substantially. England was much more in danger of being attacked than the United States, but we cannot escape the fact that if England and Europe were conquered, and Asia, including China and India, were trampled upon by Japan, we would be crushed by attack from both continents.

Therefore, while we helped Russia with millions of tons of food and munitions and everything else that we could give to Russia, we were directly helping ourselves. In all the history of the world no nation ever put up a greater fight to preserve itself from oppression and from the heel of the conqueror than did Russia in this great conflict.

We think that Russia and her leaders realize that they cannot stand alone; that

they must liberalize their extreme thoughts and doctrines toward the freedom of religion as prevailing in England and the United States. In dissolving the comintern in other countries of the world, Russia suspended some of the doctrines of Communism, especially that of world revolution. That is a sure sign of Russia's intention to change her procedure and doctrines. This order discontinues revolutionary propaganda in the United States and other countries as part of the former Communist program.

Josef Stalin, in our opinion, will come out of this war standing equally before history with Churchill and Roosevelt. People in our country cannot understand that Stalin has had a difficult job to hold the Russian people together. For centuries they had been persecuted and crushed by every element that had anything to do with the government of Russia. After the revolution internal factions became so dangerous that for a while it appeared that the overthrow of the czars would bring chaos.

Kerenski, the first head of the Russian government after the revolution, was a splendid, highly educated gentleman, but he did not have the force — the brutal force — necessary to govern those millions of Russians, most of them illiterate and expecting an immediate, perfect condition of life. Those millions were unified in the revolution, but after the revolution were dangerously divided.

Russia will need rehabilitation after the war. Russia will need finances and help from both the United States and England.

As a result of this and the greater influence that Josef Stalin will have over his people as a result of the victory which we feel now is assured, liberalism and a return to more democratic principles, we think, we hope, we believe, will obtain.

Will It Be Roosevelt or Hoover?

That Is the Real Issue in the 1944 Campaign

BY LESTER M. HUNT

WELL, boys, what will it be in November—another term of Roosevelt or another Hoover? That is exactly what the election boils down to.

There shouldn't be much debate in any working man's mind over the answer. We know what we got under Roosevelt and we know what we got under Hoover.

We got food under Roosevelt and we got fooled under Hoover.

The anti-Roosevelt crowd, consisting largely of war contractors and big business monopolies speaking through the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce, will not admit that the campaign issues are as simple as this.

In fact, they are spending millions of dollars to confuse you and inject so many phoney issues into the campaign that you won't realize what it is all about.

Remember what they said about 1940 being the last election in this country if Roosevelt was re-elected?

They are saying the same thing about 1944, which forecasts another campaign of fear and falsehood. Big business is afraid of the people. It has lost its affection for democratic government since the people found a man in whom they had confidence and decided to hang onto him, even though it violated the sacred precedent of big business that nobody should serve more than two terms as President.

The reason for such a precedent is simple. If a President holds office too long he is likely to discover the unseen hands that steer the ship of state. He might try to steer it himself. Then big business would lose its control of the machinery of government.

That is precisely what has happened. Big business lost its control of the machinery of

government the moment Hoover wilted out of the White House and Roosevelt blossomed in.

Big business did not complain too much during the first four years because it was scared. It trembled before the mess it had created. It feared the hungry mobs which were seizing public buildings and rioting for food. The public refused to starve in a dignified manner.

But after Roosevelt had provided food and jobs and saved the banking system, business recovered its confidence.

"This man must go," it said. "He is socializing industry."

Big business resented the money it cost to feed the hungry, once it was safely beyond the threat of revolution.

To prevent a recurrence of the ruthless exploitation by big business, Roosevelt encouraged labor unions. He recognized in them the economic power to cope with the power of big business. He framed laws which guaranteed to labor its fundamental rights and he pushed them through Congress.

For the first time in history labor stood on a par with industry before the courts.

That is where we stand today. In the next election we must protect what we have won or we will lose it. That is what the shouting is all about. Big business wants to get rid of those laws. But first it must get rid of Roosevelt.

Even though it now controls Congress, it cannot succeed in turning back the tide of social progress while Roosevelt sits in the White House throwing veto messages which explode like hand grenades and expose the congressional conspiracies.

It doesn't take much imagination to see what will happen to all labor legislation if we get another Congress like this one along

with another Hoover in the White House.

Even though the new Hoover has rumpled hair or a moustache, he will still be the candidate of the men who gave us Hoover and hunger. And if he is elected, he will listen to them, not to us.

So we must understand the basic issue in this campaign. The penalty for ignorance will be terrific. It may be fatal to labor.

Our enemies do not face us on that issue, however. They know that if they do, every working man in America will go to the polls with his wife next November, even if they have to crawl through a blizzard on their knees.

So a corps of high-priced publicity men and copy writers of the big advertising agencies have come into the campaign. They are writing the speeches and creating the issues which are designed to confuse the public.

Out of their nimble minds come such issues as:

1. The preservation of free enterprise.
2. The abatement of bureaucracy.
3. The halt of paternalism.
4. The creation of postwar jobs through private industry.
5. The maintenance of labor's social gains.
6. The protection of our national interest.

What do they all mean? That is what you are supposed to worry about. If they can puzzle you with such stuff as that, their battle is half won. You will have forgotten the basic issue—Roosevelt or Hoover.

A couple of those slogans are pretty clear, however, probably through accident.

Take, for instance, the maintenance of labor's social gains. Why don't they say "economic" gains. That's what we are interested in.

And take the creation of jobs through private industry. There we get the meat in the coconut. This is designed to prevent

postwar planning by the government. Big business does not want the government providing jobs for demobilized veterans.

Why? Because if the veterans walk out of the army and navy into well-paid civilian jobs, there won't be any labor surplus. And if there isn't any surplus, there won't be any decline in wages. And if there isn't any decline in wages, there won't be any huge increase in profits.

It is all very simple if you follow it through.

After the last war, the labor unions lost about half their membership in the scramble of demobilized soldiers and war workers for jobs. Every man was competing for a job. They bid against each other and the wages went down. While profits went up.

Then we entered the golden era of "free enterprise." The veterans who couldn't get jobs got a sack of apples. If they couldn't sell the apples, they could eat them. That was the "American way of life" during the postwar days of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover when "private industry provided jobs."

That's what they want to do all over again. They want you fighting a returned soldier for a job after this war. And they don't care which one of you wins because you will both work cheap—or not at all.

It will pay you to remember what this campaign is all about. Big business is right when it says the campaign will be fought on domestic issues. It is playing for big stakes. You are playing for your right of economic survival.

And when somebody tells you that Roosevelt is creating a dictatorship, or socializing industry or destroying free enterprise, just look behind you to the bread lines after the last war.

We tried all that once.

We got 12 years of free enterprise—and 12 million unemployed.

Congress permits the government to safeguard the wages and working conditions of imported aliens, but forbids it to give the same protection to American farm workers.—Boilermakers' Journal

Greater Unity Exists in Locals

Officers Warned Against High Legal Fees

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

I AM more than pleased from month to month to witness greater unity and a greater desire for cooperation amongst the officers of our local unions. If there is any curse that can come to a union it is to have a divided set of officers or a divided joint council, or a number of local unions sitting back grumbling and doing nothing to help.

In recent conferences I have held with a number of the representatives of our unions in Chicago, covering 12 states, I found a condition obtaining where the large, strong organizations, within certain cities, were successfully endeavoring to help the smaller unions in the surrounding districts.

This, of course, is the logical, wise way to proceed, because if small, newly-organized unions are allowed to run along with any kind of wages and conditions, only half organized, then the big, strong unions within the large industrial centers are also bound to suffer. No chain is stronger than its weakest link. This applies particularly to over-the-road hauling.

The more thoroughly we are organized, the more capable we will be to resist the unjust attacks that will be made on us when the industry of the nation becomes again disorganized at the ending of the war. The mushroom organizations of labor and of employers, and the mushroom industries will be wiped out, or very nearly wiped out; at least substantially weakened, when the smash comes, as it is bound to come and as it does come after every war.

Local unions having strong treasuries deserve credit for building up their treasuries and for protecting those treasuries by refusing to be carried away with flowery propositions of enormous rates on investments.

Officers of unions must be masters of

finance to a certain extent in order to protect the monies of their membership which are entrusted to their care. I have always been opposed to any foolish or wasteful spending of money. I have somewhat successfully kept down unnecessary expenses.

The policy of the International Union has been to get value for money expended. That goes for every department that we have established within the International Union, but I believe that an institution that refuses to spend a few dollars in helpfulness to others, in order to strengthen themselves, is penny wise and dollar foolish.

I also believe that unnecessary spending of money for legal services should be carefully avoided. Lawyers should be paid only for services rendered and then only reasonable, honest fees. Lawyers that endeavor to mulct or overcharge labor unions should be gotten rid of and their services should be dispensed with upon such practices being attempted.

The great legal fraternity, which is much needed in these disturbing days, is in the most part honest. Some few, however, believe that all they have to do is submit a bill and collect from the labor union. We have heard of cases of kick-back fees amongst a few of the legal fraternity. We have had no such experiences over all the years that we have held office.

You know how much we despise the driver who kicks back part of his earnings or who lies about his salary. Any member of our union making a misstatement as to his earnings to the business agent should have charges preferred against him and the penalty of expulsion is not too great if he is found guilty.

Individuals representing unions have the

right to spend their own money as they see fit but they have no right to gamble or waste the money of their local union. On the other hand, local unions that are strong financially should help the weaker local unions whenever they can do so, consistent with their resources. This does not mean that donations should be made to unions, because we have a few professional helpless individuals who are continuously expecting to be carried on the shoulders of the strong, well-managed unions.

It is also well to have it understood that the International Union does not believe in charters hanging on the walls where there are less than 100 members, especially in large centers where we have a large membership. Too many charters are not helpful. Unions of a few members are better off if they will transfer their membership to a larger local which has agents to look after their grievances.

We need consolidation and solidification now in order to be as compact and strong

and healthy and well managed as possible to meet the period of unemployment, unrest, adverse laws and other difficulties which we are bound to be confronted with as time goes on, but especially at the ending of this World War.

Above and beyond all, we need men who will cooperate with one another. We need officials who will understand that it is not their union, it is a union of the toilers engaged at our trade. We need officers who understand that the stronger we are, the more unified we are, the more we help and cooperate with each other, the more permanent we will be and the more we can do for the men and women who comprise our membership.

Dangerous, disgruntled trouble makers with temperaments and dispositions impossible to understand are the most unprofitable assets a union can have. Our continued success depends upon our diplomacy, our strategy, our honesty and our courage to face facts now and in the future.

A Man with a Plan---Crawford of N.A.M.

PRESIDENT FREDERICK C. CRAWFORD of the National Association of Manufacturers says private industry is willing to undertake the task of providing jobs after the war, but Uncle Sam must reduce the taxes on business, must stop interfering with wartime profits, must repeal or modify the laws recognizing the rights of labor and generally give industry "a free hand."

Mr. Crawford doesn't guarantee that if Uncle Sam does these things industry will carry out its part of the contract. Uncle Sam must deliver first, and then industry will see what it can do.

We would be more impressed by Mr. Crawford's plea if we didn't have a fairly good memory. From the day Warren Harding was sworn in as President in March,

1921, until Herbert Hoover bowed himself out of the White House in March, 1933 — a period of 12 years — "Big Business" was in control of our government. It got practically everything it asked.

Did it provide jobs for the idle or food for the hungry? Not so anyone could notice. When the greatest depression in history came along, what did "Big Business" do? Did it gird its loins and face the storm? It did not.

It ran squealing down to Washington, seeking help, and got billions of it.

It requires a good deal of nerve for this crowd to say now: "Leave it to us. Give us what we want and we'll save America." The record shows they never saved any serious situation.—*Zanesville (O.) Tribune.*

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The cloth-lined litho cover used on all due cards for many years is out for the duration. In its place we are substituting a perspiration-resisting cover that is made of the best possible material available.

Two Breeds of Senate Democrats

One Gives Republicans Victory Over Troops

CONGRESS has scored another contemptible victory over the men and women in our armed forces. It passed another "states' rights" voting bill following the veto of the original by President Roosevelt, who asked a "soldiers' rights" bill.

It was a Republican victory. They licked the troops again—in their absence.

How can the Republicans do this in a Congress where they have only a minority of the votes? With the help of traitorous Democrats—mostly southern Democrats.

The recent passage of the phoney soldier vote bill in the senate tells the story. It shows the two breeds of Democrats. Here they are. Look them over.

FOR THE SOLDIERS

James E. Murray, *Montana*
 Homer T. Bone, *Washington*
 Scott W. Lucas, *Illinois*
 Robert F. Wagner, *New York*
 Joseph F. Guffey, *Pennsylvania*
 James M. Tunnell, *Delaware*
 Carter Glass, *Virginia*
 James M. Mead, *New York*
 Mon C. Wallgren, *Washington*
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 Alben W. Barkley, *Kentucky*
 Sheridan Downey, *California*
 Theodore F. Green, *Rhode Island*
 Carl A. Hatch, *New Mexico*
 Carl Hayden, *Arizona*
 Harley M. Kilgore, *West Virginia*
 Samuel D. Jackson, *Indiana*
 Francis Maloney, *Connecticut*
 Ernest W. McFarland, *Arizona*
 Joseph C. O'Mahoney, *Wyoming*
 Claude Pepper, *Florida*
 Richard B. Russell, *Georgia*
 Tom Stewart, *Tennessee*
 Edwin C. Johnson, *Colorado*
 Arthur Walsh, *New Jersey*
 Elbert D. Thomas, *Utah*
 Harry S. Truman, *Missouri*

AGAINST THE SOLDIERS

Burton K. Wheeler, *Montana*
 Theodore G. Bilbo, *Mississippi*
 Robert R. Reynolds, *North Carolina*
 Tom Connally, *Texas*
 Walter F. George, *Georgia*
 John H. Bankhead, *Alabama*
 Harry F. Byrd, *Virginia*
 Josiah W. Bailey, *North Carolina*
 Charles O. Andrews, *Florida*
 James O. Eastland, *Mississippi*
 Allen J. Ellender, *Louisiana*
 Lister Hill, *Alabama*
 John L. McClellan, *Arkansas*
 Kenneth McKellar, *Tennessee*
 D. Worth Clark, *Idaho*
 Peter G. Gerry, *Rhode Island*
 Guy M. Gillette, *Iowa*
 Pat McCarran, *Nevada*
 John H. Overton, *Louisiana*
 George L. Radcliffe, *Maryland*
 Elmer Thomas, *Oklahoma*
 Millard E. Tydings, *Maryland*
 David I. Walsh, *Massachusetts*
 Ellison D. Smith, *South Carolina*
 Hattie Caraway, *Arkansas*

95 Congressmen, 14 Senators Back the Needy, Not the Greedy

NINETY-FIVE congressmen and 14 senators have won public respect as friends of the needy and not of the greedy.

They are the few courageous men who stood behind the President in his veto of the dishonest tax bill which pretended to raise taxes to meet the enormous costs of war but actually reduced the taxes of a few favored corporations.

While extending special privileges to the corporations, the bill contained restrictions for labor in the form of federal inspection of union finances, a subject entirely remote from the measure.

This is a typical congressional trick. By adding a labor restriction onto a tax bill, it gives cowardly congressmen an alibi. While declaring their friendship for labor, they can nevertheless vote for an anti-labor measure on the excuse that they were really voting for the tax bill.

It is one of the devices by which congressmen try to keep their constituents from knowing how they stand on any subject.

With customary congressional deception, the tax bill purports to raise two billion dollars in new revenue. Actually it will raise only half that.

It cancelled increases in the social security tax rate to provide for the relief of the needy in future years.

For the greedy, it terminated the renegotiation of war contracts, thereby permitting war profiteers to fill their pockets with tax monies. This is a vital phase of "free enterprise."

That was a measure of benefit to all war contractors. But the bill did not stop there. It singled out other corporations for additional rewards.

It gave special consideration to financiers

who speculate in the bonds of bankrupt corporations, permitting them to reap a profit after original investors have been frozen out.

It extended favored tax treatment to mine speculators and allowed the big lumber companies to evade annual income taxes.

It granted exemption to natural gas pipelines on excess profits and extended unjustifiable subsidies to commercial air lines, one of which will save \$400,000,000 in taxes under this "revenue" law.

The same congressmen who voted against subsidies for food approved subsidies for airplane corporations, such as the employers of Eddie Rickenbacker. Evidently Rickenbacker can charm congressmen as well as sea gulls.

All of these special favors were pointed out by the President in his veto message. He did it so bluntly that the majority of congress became hysterical. They said he questioned their integrity. It was the first intimation the public had that the congressional majority had any integrity. The dictionary definition of the word "integrity" is not the definition of the average congressman or senator.

But it does apply to the 95 congressmen and 14 senators who resisted every type of political coercion and intimidation to stand fast by their principles in what was obviously a losing fight.

Congressman Ray J. Madden, the only Indiana congressman to support the veto, spoke the sentiments of his group when he announced after the veto was over-ridden:

"The President is opposed in Congress by an alliance of reactionary southern Democrats and northern Republicans. This was true on the tax bill, the subsidy bill and the Smith-Connally bill,

"I think the President will grow in strength when the country realizes the type of opposition he faces.

"The President, in my judgment, would have been sustained in his veto of this bill if only he had softened his blows in his veto message and Senator Barkley had not made his speech.

"The President's troubles began when he announced long ago that this war was not to be one that would produce more millionaires.

"For a long time southern Democrats were fence-sitters—now they see a chance with

their coalition with northern Republicans to snipe at the President even in the midst of war.

"I am proud to be the lone Hoosier to stand by the President in vetoing a tax bill with its terrible provisions.

"The people should be informed that the President's troubles in Congress come from the reactionaries—the southern Democrats, who join with Republicans.

"I rejoice we have a great war President; I am proud to be counted as a supporter of President Roosevelt when he is dead right."

The Honor Roll

Here is the honor roll of the men in the House and Senate who stood firm behind the President's veto of the fraudulent tax bill:

ALABAMA Sen. Hill, Dem. No House members	ILLINOIS No senators Dawson, Dem. Gordon, Dem. Gorski, Dem. O'Brien, Dem. Rowan, Dem. Sabath, Dem.	Lesinski, Dem. O'Brien, Dem. Rabaut, Dem. Sadowski, Dem.	Bloom, Dem. Buckley, Dem. Burchill, Dem. Byrne, Dem. Capozzoli, Dem. Delaney, Dem. Dickstein, Dem. Fitzpatrick, Dem. Heffernan, Dem. Kennedy, Dem. Keogh, Dem. Klein, Dem. Lynch, Dem. Marcantonio, AL Merritt, Dem. O'Toole, Dem. Pfeifer, Dem. Somers, Dem.
ARIZONA No senators Harless, Dem. Murdock, Dem.	INDIANA No senators Madden, Dem.	MINNESOTA No senators Andersen, Rep.	NORTH CAROLINA None
ARKANSAS None	IOWA None	MISSISSIPPI None	NORTH DAKOTA Sen. Langer, Rep. No House members
CALIFORNIA No senators Engle, Dem. Ford, Dem. Izac, Dem. King, Dem. Outland, Dem. Rogers, Dem. Tolan, Dem. Voorhis, Dem. Welch, Rep.	KANSAS None	MISSOURI No senators Cannon, Dem. Cochran, Dem.	OHIO No senators Bolton, Rep. Crosser, Dem. Feighan, Dem. Kirwan, Dem.
COLORADO None	KENTUCKY No senators Bates, Dem. Spence, Dem. Vincent, Dem.	MONTANA Sen. Murray, Dem. Mansfield, Dem. O'Connor, Dem.	OKLAHOMA No senators Johnson, Dem. Monroney, Dem. Wickersham, Dem.
CONNECTICUT None	LOUISIANA None	NEBRASKA None	OREGON None
DELAWARE Sen. Tunnell, Dem. No House members	MAINE None	NEVADA None	
FLORIDA Sen. Pepper, Dem. No House members	MARYLAND None	NEW HAMPSHIRE None	
GEORGIA No senators Tarver, Dem.	MASSACHUSETTS No senators Lane, Dem. McCormack, Dem.	NEW JERSEY No senators Hart, Dem. Norton, Dem. Wene, Dem.	
IDAHO None	MICHIGAN No senators Dingell, Dem.	NEW MEXICO None	
		NEW YORK Sen. Mead, Dem. Sen. Wagner, Dem.	

PENNSYLVANIA Sen. Guffey, Dem. Bradley, Dem. Eberharter, Dem. Furlong, Dem. Hoch, Dem. Kelley, Dem. Murphy, Dem. Myers, Dem. Scanlon, Dem. Sheridan, Dem. Snyder, Dem. Weiss, Dem. Wright, Dem.	SOUTH CAROLINA None SOUTH DAKOTA None TENNESSEE No senators Cooper, Dem. Courtney, Dem. Davis, Dem. Gore, Dem. Kefauver, Dem. McCord, Dem. Priest, Dem.	TEXAS No senators Patton, Dem. UTAH Sen. Murdock, Dem. Sen. Thomas, Dem. Granger, Dem. Robinson, Dem. VERMONT None VIRGINIA No senators Flannagan, Dem.	WASHINGTON Sen. Bone, Dem. Sen. Wallgren, Dem. Coffee, Dem. Jackson, Dem. Magnuson, Dem. WEST VIRGINIA Sen. Kilgore, Dem. Kee, Dem. WISCONSIN No senators Dilweg, Dem. Hull, Pro. McMurray, Dem. Sauthoff, Pro. WYOMING None
RHODE ISLAND Sen. Green, Dem. Fogarty, Dem. Forand, Dem.			

Labor Men Serve the Government Without Pay

THE National Trucking Commission, which handles all cases of our International Union and our employers, and which is a part of and was created by the War Labor Board at our request, is a government tribunal.

Each member of the panel is entitled to pay from the government. We don't know whether the employers' man, Landis O'Brien, accepts his salary or not. It is none of our business.

We do know that Professor Finesinger is paid by the government because he has resigned his position to take up this work.

And we also know that the representative of the International Brotherhood of Team-

sters is entitled to government salary, but we have not permitted him to accept any salary from the government. We feel that he is more independent receiving a salary from our International Union.

We also feel that it would not be in the best interests of the general membership at this particular time to have our man accepting a salary from the government. The representatives of the American Federation of Labor, George Meany and Matthew Woll, members of the War Labor Board, are not accepting any salary for their services, although the government provides for salaries.

We thought our people might be interested in this information.

Albany, N. Y., Local Gets Its First Gold Star

THE death of Lieut. John A. McCall recently gave Local No. 787 of Albany, N. Y., the first gold star on its service roster.

McCall was a bombardier on a flying fortress which crashed in England after returning from a raid on Germany. Although the plane successfully completed its bombing mission, it was badly damaged and crashed just as it had reached the safety of England after fighting its way through

swarms of enemy planes and anti-aircraft barrages.

In reporting the death, Secretary Louis J. Russo said that McCall was a popular member of the local and a fine union man. He was a brother of Robert McCall, vice-president of Local No. 294 of Albany.

Robert McCall is now an army sergeant in Mississippi while two other brothers, Pvt. Bernard McCall and Corp. David McCall, are both overseas.

Prosecute Agitators, Says Tobin

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

BECAUSE of the turnover in our membership — that is, new members coming in — we have recently been afflicted or cursed with some individuals who believe that because they are members of the union they are powerful enough to turn the world over in a day.

Those men are inexperienced and do not possess the average common sense or reasonable understanding. The union itself is as strong as the quality of the men who compose the union.

The members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters have advanced themselves so far that their progress is like a fairly tale.

The hardships we endured in our early days before we started our union, and for many years afterwards, could be rightfully classed as a condition of slavery. Today men in our union are free to express themselves anywhere within the law and they earn enough to live as decent, upright citizens, bringing up their children as Americans should be educated and trained.

There are at this writing 125,000 of our members, men who were initiated into our union, wearing the uniforms of our government in defense of our nation. The great majority of those men are overseas. We have promised them their jobs, if they are able to take them, as soon as they return. The government has insisted that employers comply with this procedure.

Men who were officers of our local unions should be taken care of by the unions providing the laws of the union permit it. Agitators within the union are dangerous and when they make foolish statements, either outside the union or within the union, against the government, against the officers of the union, who are duly and regularly elected, or against the union as a whole, charges should be preferred against them in

accordance with our laws and the local executive board should give them a trial.

If they are found guilty of the charges they have the right to appeal to the joint council and to the International Union, in accordance with our laws.

Any individual going into the courts of the land before he has presented his case on appeal to the highest courts of the International Union, loses his rights within the organization.

It is a pitiful thing to have to expel a member from an organization, but if that man has broken the obligation he has taken, in which obligation he pledged himself to never do anything against a member or against the union, then expulsion is little enough penalty for him.

Better have a union of 500 members that are loyal and understand their obligation, than 5,000 members who are dangerous disrupters and who do not appreciate the work of the union.

This does not mean, of course, that a man is shut off within the local union at its meetings, but the individual must present his case in an honorable, brotherly, decent manner, and not make vicious, extravagant statements and charges of which he has no proof but which are based on hearsay.

If there ever was a time in the family of labor when we needed unity it is now, and the so-called "smart aleck" who has become a member of our union because of the shortage of men, or who was a member before the shortage of men, is a dangerous element within the union.

Much of our dissension is caused by the honest thinking, decent members of our union who are too lazy and indolent to go to the meetings and help out the officers and in turn educate themselves. They are the kind of union men who think they fulfill

their obligation by paying their dues. That kind of union man is also dangerous because he leaves the affairs of the union in the hands of a few faithful followers who are sometimes out-voted by the nitwits and agitators within the union.

The disturbers never miss a meeting. My advice to the officers of local unions is not to let extravagant statements containing charges against the union go unheeded, but to proceed against all disturbers and agitators who have no control over their tongues and who are irresponsible, and this also applies to small groups or gatherings around

our garages where they hold conferences to the detriment of our union.

The day is not far off when our unions may be forced out of business as a result of anti-labor legislation and also as a result of those continuous knockers and disgruntled individuals that we have within the union. I do not wish to go through the fight again of trying to maintain a union. I have gone through that before, but let me say to those who are now disgruntled, they had better never been born than have to work under non-union conditions as some of us did years ago.

Ten Hours at Wheel too Short for Georgian

THE long anticipated attack on the health and safety regulations of the ICC has been launched.

Georgia's commissioner of agriculture now comes forward with a petition to abolish the rule which prohibits a road driver from operating a truck for more than ten hours in any one day.

Using the alleged manpower shortage as an excuse, the Georgian's real reason is based upon profits. This he frankly reveals in his petition to the commission.

Ignoring the overwhelming evidence accumulated through years of study by the country's outstanding safety and medical experts, Georgia's commissioner of agriculture is concerned only with increasing the

southern plantation owner's "take" on much needed foodstuffs. Irked by price ceilings, he has "figured an angle" whereby he can get further profits out of the truck driver's hide.

The maximum hours on duty regulations of the ICC are not and never were intended to reduce the work day in order that a driver could earn more money. The sole object of these rules was to protect the lives of persons on the highway. The evidence that a truck driver is a hazard on the highways after driving ten hours is conclusive.

The Georgian's petition therefore raises but a single question: Is the life of a truck driver worth more than a load of peaches?

—*Pennsylvania Teamster.*

Teamster Support Is Not for Sale

THE Teamsters' Union is not soliciting funds from any political candidate or political party. Neither is it soliciting funds from any other person or organization for any purpose.

Recently some political candidates have been approached by persons claiming to represent this union and offered support in return for cash contributions or advertisements in labor papers.

Sometimes a candidate is told the Teamsters plan to support him and the contribu-

tion is asked to "defray the expense" of a campaign in his behalf.

The inference is that if the candidate does not contribute the Teamsters will oppose him. This is nothing but a racket.

When the Teamsters support candidates there is no secret about it. We tell the world.

All local unions are instructed to watch closely for anyone starting this fund solicitation racket in their localities and to inform all political organizations that the support of the Teamsters' Union is not for sale.

N. D. Labor Slaps Notorious Nye

Non-Partisan League Also Repudiates Him

UNANIMOUSLY repudiated by organized labor in North Dakota, Senator Gerald P. Nye, one of the nation's most notorious isolationists, was overwhelmingly defeated for the Non-Partisan League indorsement in Bismarck, North Dakota, recently.

Congressman Usher L. Burdick won the indorsement of the Non-Partisan League convention by a vote of 78 to 19 over Nye, who is running for re-election.

The action of the Non-Partisan League is foreseen as the doom of Nye in the fall election.

It brings into sharp contrast the recent voting records of Nye and Burdick on labor and progressive legislation.

Nye has a record of only 30 per cent right on these measures while Burdick has a score of 91 per cent.

It is largely on the basis of this record that the International has been notified that "the labor movement in North Dakota has voted unanimously to do all it can to defeat Nye and elect Burdick senator."

Nye's record is one of violent opposition to national defense before and since Pearl Harbor.

He has attempted to prevent the trial of other notorious isolationists accused of sedition. He was recently quoted in an interview in the *New York Post* as demanding the "right" of Germany to retain a Fascist government after the war.

"The German people must be given the right to go back to Fascism after the war if they want it," Nye said. "Fascism essentially is not militaristic or aggressive."

In other words, according to Nye, we are fighting this war to guarantee to Germany the right to start another war before the grass is green on the graves of this one.

Nye favors Gen. MacArthur or Col. Rob-

ert Rutherford McCormick, publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, for President, he said in the same interview.

Nye had a voting record 100 per cent wrong on every vital national defense measure prior to Pearl Harbor. After the Japs attacked us, Nye made a speech attacking Britain. Even then he didn't want to fight Fascism.

Nye opposed revision of the neutrality act to aid the Allies while the Germans were slaughtering the Poles. He voted against lend-lease to keep groggy France on her feet. He voted against extension of the draft, without which our new army would have been disbanded on the eve of war. He opposed the transfer of seized German ships to carry supplies to our allies.

Every measure to hold Germany and Italy in check while we strengthened our own defenses, Nye fought.

He favored a bill to stop the Farm Security Administration from making loans to small farmers so they could maintain their economic independence and reduce the war-time food shortage.

He favored another measure to prevent the Commodity Credit Corporation from using its funds to roll back prices for the consumer and at the same time guarantee to the farmer a fair price for his produce.

Nye voted to kill the National Resources Planning Board which was planning peacetime jobs for demobilized soldiers and war workers. He opposed appropriations for the domestic use of the Office of War Information and the National Youth Administration.

Yet Nye favored the Ruml plan sponsored by newly rich war contractors to avoid paying their income taxes in the years of their biggest war profits.

Nye opposed the extension of reciprocal

trade agreements which must be the basis of international prosperity and good will after the war.

While Nye opposed appropriations to federal agencies which would benefit farmers, wage earners and everybody of low income, he favored unlimited incomes for war contractors.

He voted to kill the \$25,000 net limit on incomes as an emergency war measure. A \$25,000 net income means an income of \$67,000 per year.

But Nye thought that was not enough for war profiteers while anything at all for the

little farmer or working man was too much.

Nye opposed subsidies for food but voted to pass the tax bill over the President's veto which granted tax subsidies to large corporations. He favored subsidies for profits but not for food.

Nye now cries that "big interests" of the East are trying to defeat him for re-election. Why would they? He has been for the "big interests."

The people who are trying to defeat him are the little people whose sons are dying because Nye and men like him refused to let his country protect itself.

Tobin Scores Friday to Monday Week Ends

ALL officers of unions should be on the job every hour of the day and night during these dangerous times. Officers of unions are like officers in the army. They have no time off and the smart boy who thinks he is so important that he can leave his office on Friday afternoon and not show up until some time Monday—well, he is not just the best man for the union.

We are in war industrially as well as from the military standpoint and when we are in war, at the battle front for labor, we must be on the alert every day and every hour.

Do not get this thing into your head, you who are officers, that you are absolutely indispensable. This union can get along without any of us and it will get along when we are forgotten.

Our time belongs to the union every hour of the day and we should not be hidden away or in a place where we cannot be found in case of an emergency at any hour of the day or night. We should be within reach, not carousing or relaxing. The member on the truck or in the service is doing his job.—D. J. T.

Wage Reductions Loom Following War

DON'T sit back and smile and think you can hold the conditions you now enjoy, without your union. Men receiving \$1 an hour will possibly be driven back to 60 or 70 cents an hour after the termination of this war.

At least there will be a strong attempt made to reduce wages. Of course, we know that you are a union man—but what kind of a union man? One that growls continu-

ously because of the payment of your dues or because you don't like your local official or because your business agent has not been able to get you something you think you are entitled to, and may be entitled to?

Just answer this question: Were you getting those things you are now receiving before you joined the union? Do you think you will continue to get them if your union is abolished?

The FBI is to be congratulated for its splendid job in bringing to light the truth about the American bund, the Nazi organization. If there has ever been any doubt in the past in the minds of Americans that the bundists were tied up with Hitler and were disloyal to the United States and its form of government, that doubt has been expelled by the work of the FBI.—*The State Advocate, West Virginia.*

Food Subsidy Fight Continues

Ten Congressmen Pledge Unrelenting Effort

THE fight for food subsidies to keep down the cost of living and check inflation is being waged by a group of determined congressmen.

They saved subsidies temporarily in the House by sustaining the President's veto of the anti-subsidy measure. But the campaign of war profiteers to kill subsidies is still going on.

The defense of subsidies is in the hands of the Congressional Committee for the Protection of Consumers which has written **THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER** explaining the legislative position of the subsidy program.

The letter was signed by the following ten congressmen, nine Democrats and one Republican:

Thomas E. Scanlon, Democrat,
Pennsylvania.

William A. Rowan, Democrat,
Illinois.

Thomas F. Ford, Democrat,
California.

Louis C. Rabaut, Democrat,
Michigan.

James A. Wright, Democrat,
Pennsylvania.

Maurice J. Sullivan, Democrat,
Nevada.

Usher L. Burdick, Republican,
North Dakota.

Howard J. McMurray, Democrat,
Wisconsin.

John H. Tolan, Democrat,
California.

Adolph J. Sabath, Democrat,
Illinois.

These men who are leading the fight for the consumers also played active parts in the fight for the soldiers. They favored a law that would permit the soldiers to vote

for federal offices instead of a deceptive "states' rights" bill which promised them the right to vote for everybody but actually would have prevented them from voting for anybody.

The names of these ten men all appeared in last month's issue of this magazine as voting against a cowardly maneuver to kill the federal voting bill without a roll call.

They were willing to stand up and be counted for the soldiers just as they are now standing up to be counted for the civilians. Eight of them also appear on the honor roll we are printing in this issue of the men who stood with the President on the tax bill veto.

Following is their letter:

"The first round of the 1944 fight for the protection of consumers is won. By a narrow margin of 26 votes, the House has sustained the President's veto of H. R. 3477 (of which Section 3 would have banned food subsidies). For the time being, the food-producing farmer can be sure that he will get a fair price for his products, and 130,000,000 Americans will be saved 7 per cent increases in their food budget.

"A limited subsidy program will be continued, but Commodity Credit Corporation and Reconstruction Finance Corporation funds available for this purpose fall far below the 1½ billion dollars which Chester Bowles has stated to be the minimum necessary to control prices effectively.

"Even this limited program is insecure. Representative Wolcott (R., Mich.) announced after the veto of H. R. 3477 that he would lead another attack on subsidy payments when the Price Control Bill is up for extension.

"Therefore the fight must go on. Hearings on the new appropriation for the Office of Price Administration are under way before the House Appropriations Committee.

"The House Banking and Currency Committee will soon begin consideration of extension of the Price Control Act, which expires on June 30. These two measures must be enacted, with strengthening amendments, and existing or proposed crippling riders must be defeated.

"Otherwise, in the midst of our greatest war effort, we will be without any machinery to hold down the cost of living, and, in the words of the President, we will be face to face with economic chaos.

"We members of the Congressional Committee for the Protection of Consumers pledge to fight for a revitalized price con-

trol program, and an adequate appropriation for OPA, to enable it to set and enforce ceiling prices, keep down rents, and prevent profiteering.

"We are receiving effective assistance from an advisory committee representing leading farm, white-collar, veterans, labor, and consumer organizations, whose members were appointed at the Emergency Conference of Consumers in December.

"We welcome the comments and support of every group interested in combatting inflation and working for an adequate food and price control program to meet our war needs."

Protect Your Truck to Protect Your Country

EDWARD MURPHY, international representative, has again called members' attention to one of the most important wartime responsibilities of Teamsters—utmost care of truck equipment.

Fulfilling this responsibility means not merely protecting your job, but, more important, protecting your country, for the government depends heavily upon truck transport for the swift transfer of war mate-

rials. And while no new civilian trucks are being made, it becomes necessary to squeeze many additional thousands of miles out of those now in use.

If airplane parts and other war material hauled by trucks don't move, the national war effort will be placed in serious jeopardy. The rails cannot do the entire job.

Make that truck last!

—*Zanesville (Ohio) Tribune.*

Bankers Hungry for Home Owners' Money

WAY back in the depression the federal government rescued lending agencies from ruin by setting up the Home Owners Loan Corporation and taking off their hands millions of dollars in mortgages in default because of unpaid interest.

And now the financial wizards who were gasping for breath in the '30's want to abolish the HOLC and get those securities back, so they can collect the interest which is now

being paid by the solvent home owners.

The HOLC is one of those agencies which has returned a profit to the federal government, and anyone knows that ain't right. If there is any money to be made it belongs to our private financial wizards. They were glad to have the government step in and relieve them of a heavy burden, but now that the crisis is past they want their gravy.

—*Miami Citizen.*

If Hitler was permitted to speak in Minneapolis, beyond any doubt he would advocate that the supplies and munitions now being sent to brave and courageous Russia should be denied them, and instead diverted to some other front where Nazis are not fighting. Is it not surprising, or is it surprising, that Gerald L. K. Smith is reported to have advocated this very thing that would so gladden the heart of the Fuehrer and be so disastrous to our armed forces?

—*Minneapolis Labor Review.*

Locals Are Often Swindled by Their Members —

Sick Benefits Not Practical

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

MY ATTENTION has been called to an article appearing in last May's issue of our Journal, headed "Tobin Warns Against Sick Benefits." The article refers somewhat to insurance.

Some of the writers have reminded me of the fact that I had been advocating a mortuary benefit by the International Union for many years. That fact is exactly true, and if I live until the next convention I will again advocate a mortuary benefit by the International Union.

There is substance and strength behind the International Union and when it guarantees to pay a certain amount of money at the death of a member in good standing, the widow or dependent can rest assured they will receive that amount of money, but we have had more local unions than we care to mention who were unable, during the depression years, to meet their liabilities and had to either reduce or abolish their death benefits.

What the article in the May issue refers to mostly is sick and unemployment benefits which many of our unions have adopted in recent years. There is nothing that will eat up a local union's treasury more than a sick or unemployment insurance.

Only the government of the state or nation has sufficient police force and legal machinery to properly and honestly enforce sick and unemployment insurance.

Local unions that we know of have often been swindled, in periods of unemployment, by individuals who had friends with sufficient influence to put over their demand for unemployment or sick benefits.

The adoption of such benefits by local unions on ordinary dues is out of the question. If sick or unemployment benefits are considered at all, the dues should be far

beyond any dues collected for ordinary purposes.

Also, if men are guaranteed sick benefits there should be physical examinations before they are admitted to membership and the labor movement has, during all of its history, opposed the requirement of physical examination in order to obtain employment or to obtain admission into the union.

In the days that the sun is shining and everybody is working, local officers, in their enthusiasm, should not be carried off their feet by beautiful phrases coming from down amongst the membership on the floor.

Those flowery speeches are often made by men who have some ulterior motive, sometimes by men who know nothing of finances or business, very often by men who want to play to the galleries, and again by others who desire to get everything and pay very little.

Our advice to local unions is to keep away from the sick benefit and from the unemployment benefit as much as possible. A mortuary benefit in the local union, in a reasonable amount, properly conducted, with part of the dues each month set aside to be used only for that mortuary benefit may continue to function successfully if the union is handled by business officials with ability. The International Union funds are handled and guarded by our board of directors and are properly accounted for. The International is not run from a sentimental standpoint and there lies the hope of the dependent because the International Union has never failed to carry out its obligations.

Local unions should not overload themselves with liabilities during those prosperous days. Build up your treasuries. Remember there are lean years ahead of us.

U. S. Starving, Said Reader's Digest

Politics Taint Articles In National Magazine

BY LESTER M. HUNT

ACCORDING to the *Reader's Digest* of last August, the war should be about over by now. The Japs and Germans should be preparing to dictate the terms of peace in the White House.

Because last August the *Reader's Digest* issued a grim warning. It said that the national administration had so bungled things on the home front that by February the diet of the American people would be "well below the nutrition level."

"We hate to look ahead to next February," the *Reader's Digest* muttered ominously.

Of course if the diet of the American people had become so critical by February that it was "well below the nutrition level," by this month—April—workers would be collapsing at their benches and our fighting men would be dying for lack of supplies and ammunition.

February has come and gone. There was plenty of food, even though the low income groups could not buy all they wanted because corporations like the *Reader's Digest* have fought every effort of the administration to make food more plentiful for them.

For its expert analysis on food the *Reader's Digest* hired not a dietician or an economist but a novelist—Louis Bromfield. And here's what the *Digest* said in its fiction story:

"If Herr Doktor Goebbels had come to America with the express purpose of making a complete mess of food production, he could not possibly have done as good a job as has been done in Washington.

"The situation will grow worse this fall (1943) and reach its most desperate stage this winter, especially from February on.

"February," Herbert Hoover points out from his experience, 'is always the black month—the month to be feared most.'

"If it were possible, I would rather not

think about next February. By then most of our people will be living on a diet well below the nutrition level.

"How could such a state of affairs have come about? There is but one answer—the President. . . ."

Out of this fearsome political scenario emerges the policy of the *Reader's Digest* in a campaign year. Its hero—Hoover. Its villain—Roosevelt.

In quoting Hoover, the *Digest* turned to the greatest living authority on black months. He gave us plenty of them while he was President.

The *Reader's Digest*, you may remember, is the publication which whipped up a public frenzy against labor on the eve of the 1943 sessions of the state legislatures which resulted in the passage of anti-labor laws in a dozen states.

William Hard, whose title is "roving editor" of the *Reader's Digest*, wrote the labor attack. He cited instances of labor abuses in a small town in New York.

And on the basis of what happened in that town, he urged the legislatures of California, Texas, and all the other states to enact laws which would protect them from the local union in New York.

The roving editor roved all over the country on that one. He neglected to point out, however, that there are plenty of criminal laws in the State of New York to prosecute the union officials he accused of corruption. The condition of which he complained existed because of the negligence of New York state officials.

But he didn't say that. Instead he demanded that all other states pass laws. How a California law could correct conditions inside New York, Rover Boy Hard did not explain.

Soon after this article appeared, THE

INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER wrote the *Reader's Digest*, pointing to the consistent effort of President Tobin to prevent strikes and suggesting that while the *Reader's Digest* was attacking some labor racketeers, it give credit to the labor leaders who have stood firm in patriotic performance.

That was on February 8, 1943.

Under date of April 3, 1943, we got an answer from the Rover Boy, announcing that our letter had been referred to him by DeWitt Wallace, who Hard reverently described as "our founder and publisher and editor in chief."

It took about two months for our letter to go from the desk of the "founder and publisher and editor in chief" to that of the roving editor, who was no doubt roving during most of that time.

Hard asked if it would be possible for the *Reader's Digest* to obtain an article from Tobin.

"There would have to be a preliminary agreement, of course, on the theme of the article," the rover wrote.

Whereupon we wrote him, discussing the same subject on which Eric Johnston, the president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, had previously expressed his views in the *Digest*.

Tobin was prepared to accept Johnston's indorsement of the capitalistic system. But he was not prepared to accept some of the abuses which occur under it. He further declared it essential that the White House be occupied by a man of President Roosevelt's calibre.

At that time, a year ago, this union, while it was supporting earnestly the President's program, was not committed to the re-election of Roosevelt for a fourth term or even to the election of a Democrat.

Now we are committed to the re-election of President Roosevelt because no one except a few hungry politicians have appeared to replace him.

And we don't like the people who are trying to beat Roosevelt. That includes the Rover Boy and his "founder and publisher

and editor in chief." This is the same editor who was recently accused of telling his staff that Germany should not be completely crushed in this war and that Hitler should be preserved to "protect" Europe against Communism. Hitler has long been saying the same thing.

In our letter to Hard we pointed out that Tobin considered the election of an isolationist as President would leave us shuddering in the shadow of another war, even if we won this one.

Apparently the *Reader's Digest* didn't think so much of our views. We were too friendly to Roosevelt and too unfriendly to isolationists.

Seven weeks passed before the Rover Boy again took his pen in hand. On May 29, 1943, he wrote again, ignoring all the suggestions made for Tobin's article.

By that time any reply to the original charges were getting pretty cold. But the views of Tobin on national leadership during and after the war were still more appropriate.

"Are you still interested in the article?" Hard wrote. Why would he think we weren't?

"What is your present view as to the topics it should contain?" Why would he think we had changed our view?

"Could Mr. Tobin let us have a draft of the kind of article he would regard as suitable. I repeat that if we agree on an article that is satisfactory to you and at the same time in our opinion would be interesting to our readers, we would be proud to print it as a picture of the mind of a labor leader of Mr. Tobin's standing."

Then Hard suavely attempted to mould the article into one attacking management and avoiding all national issues.

"Let me assure you," he said, "that we do not care how stiffly Mr. Tobin might attack any management practices of which he may not approve. Some of our authors have criticized certain labor union practices pretty vigorously from time to time."

"We are not at all averse to printing parallel articles that would attack management practices of an undesirable character. . . . We would not want in any way to try to soften any views that Mr. Tobin might have as to management mistakes and failures.

"May I hear from you."

You are hearing from us now, Mr. Hard. This is our first answer to your letter of last May 29. Why should we continue to answer all this double talk? We know when we are being kidded.

The purpose of the *Reader's Digest* was to create the illusion that it was being fair to both sides because it opened its columns to Tobin.

But it closed the door to him on the views that have won him national recognition as a wartime labor leader who recognizes his

responsibilities and realizes that the greatest danger to labor would be the failure to crush Fascism, once and for all.

Tobin is for unconditional surrender. He is against "peace now" or at any other time except when it comes to stay, on the bayonets of our victorious troops.

Apparently all the *Reader's Digest* wanted to do was to promote a grudge fight between labor and management instead of a sane discussion of problems which will affect the welfare of future generations.

If the *Reader's Digest* wants to portray "the mind of a labor leader," let it select a mind that is in closer harmony with what it is trying to accomplish.

It can't put words in Tobin's mouth.

And it can't take any out, either.

Congress Didn't Beat Roosevelt---They Beat You!

THE new tax bill, so triumphantly passed over the President's veto, will cost every working man and woman in the country an extra \$25 to \$50 in income taxes this year. That was brought about by abolition of the earned income credit. The tax rates for the big fellows, however, were not touched.

The bill also takes away from the war and navy departments the power to renegotiate war contracts in the tool-making industry. This means that the great financial interests which own the tool industry are permitted to keep the billions of dollars in

excessive war profits they have made on government contracts. To that extent the congress graciously legalized the most vicious profiteering in our country's history. The big interests who profit to the tune of billions by the new tax bill are the "greedy interests" to whom President Roosevelt referred in his veto message.

Well, who won the fight? Congress did not win it! Roosevelt did not lose it!

The gigantic financial interests won; the people lost. You were one of the losers.

—*The Chicago Union Leader.*

Bring German Sympathizers to Trial

WHY are German sympathizers permitted to exercise American freedom of speech to sabotage our war effort? Is this a luxury that we can afford to indulge in the midst of a life-and-death struggle against Fascism?

I think that a vigorous prosecution of the enemy within the gates—Hitler's fifth column—would go a long way toward inspiring people on the home front toward a more

resolute support of the war effort, thereby hastening victory and saving the lives of many American boys, as well as the youth of our allies. To this end, the Department of Justice should be encouraged to proceed without delay to bring to trial the 30 persons indicted for sedition January 3, 1944, by a Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia.—*A. F. Whitney in The Railroad Trainman.*

Power Trust Weeps for Labor

THROUGH skillful propaganda, the huge electric power companies are attempting to prejudice organized labor against public ownership of such utilities.

One motive is obvious. Without the competition of the publicly owned plants, the private power companies would be able to double or treble their electric price rates. That means they would take several extra dollars out of *your* pocket every month.

Another motive not so obvious because it is being carefully concealed is that the power companies want to get their hands on the huge public plants and operate them for their own profit.

They have their greedy eyes on the Grand Coulee, the Bonneville and other magnificent federal projects which have made possible the remarkable factory and farm production records.

At the time these plants were being contemplated, the private companies shouted that such "socialistic" projects would produce more power than the public or industry could absorb. The truth has been that these plants cannot supply the demand that has been created since abundant cheap power became available to homes, farms and factories.

The power companies, to prejudice labor, point out that one public power district in El Centro, California, and another in Nebraska are anti-union. They say the directors of these districts refuse to sign contracts with labor. So what?

So we should junk the entire public power program in the rest of the country and turn a couple of billion dollars in electric developments over to the private corporations. According to the power corporations!

There will be a tidy profit for the boys who put that deal across! They'll never worry over malnutrition.

It happens that the two public power districts which the corporations picture as a threat to labor are located in rural sections of the country which are generally anti-labor.

Probably the school districts of El Centro, Calif., and of Nebraska are not sympathetic to unions either. But because of that should we close down the entire system of public education in the United States? That would be just as reasonable as the program the power monopoly proposes.

Nobody with any common sense or any real interest in the welfare of labor or the public will fall for such stuff.

We will not wipe out a highly successful federal power program because it reduces the profits of the stockholders who grew rich with men like Samuel Insull. Those corrupt days have passed. But their aroma still lingers to warn of the skeletons in the closet of the electric industry.

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